

April 15, 2005
Ser 05-016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mike Andrews
(202) 274-5685

**Prominent Civil Rights Attorney Thomas N. Todd to Address
University of the District of Columbia Commencement Convocation**

Washington, D.C. — Thomas N. Todd, a prominent leader of the civil rights movement will deliver the keynote address at the University of the District of Columbia's 28th Commencement Convocation, scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Saturday May 14th, 2005, as graduates will receive their associates, baccalaureate, masters and juris doctorate degrees. Mr. Todd, who was also the keynote speaker at the University's Founders Day Convocation in February, will address the graduates and guests at the ceremony at the MCI Center, which will be presided over by University President William L. Pollard, PhD.

An activist attorney widely known as "TNT" for his oratorical skills, Thomas N. Todd, 66, served as a lawyer in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1967 and joined the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago in 1967. In this capacity, Todd made history when he developed the first criminal case against a Chicago policeman for deprivation of an individual's civil rights in 1968. Todd organized and established the first Civil Rights Office in a local U.S. Attorney's Office in 1969. *United States v. Gorman*, the first federal criminal case against a Chicago police officer ended in a hung jury in 1971. Todd was the first full-time black law professor at Northwestern University, where he taught from 1970 to 1974. Todd has been admitted to practice law before many courts, including the Louisiana Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Military Appeals, The Illinois Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. A powerful spokesman for civil rights, Todd was

president of the Chicago Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1971 and president of Operation PUSH from 1983 to 1984

The University of the District of Columbia is the sole public source for accessible, inclusive, affordable, and comprehensive public higher education in the District of Columbia and provides additional life-long learning opportunities. The University delivers quality instruction and uses student-centered approaches to empower and benefit both individuals and its local communities. The University, an urban land grant institution, is a very diverse community, a gateway to the world, and a significant investment engine for the District of Columbia. The University is located at 4200 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington, and is conveniently located at the Van Ness/UDC stop on the Red Line of Metro. For more information on other University activities, contact Mike Andrews, Senior Director for Communications and University Spokesman at (202) 274-5685 or visit the University's web site at www.udc.edu.

###

NOTICE TO MEDIA: Media are welcome to observe and report on highly visual activities taking place in concurrence with the University of the District of Columbia's Commencement Convocation. Media interested in covering this event should contact Mike Andrews, Senior Director for Communications at (202) 274-5685 prior to the event.

J. Michael Andrews
Senior Director
Communications & Alumni Affairs
University of the District of Columbia
(w) 202-274-5685
(f) 202-274-5384
(c) 202-409-5080

